

activity, ought to be dedicatable by those churches to one of their primary purposes, which is the care of the needy. They are doing it. The city is not doing it. They are doing it. The city is not doing it, and for us to continue to take out of church coffers a tax simply to allow that tax to continue to flow to the city, when you and I know that the church will use that money for the kind of good work that has to be done in our society, is unconscionable. It is simply unconscionable for us to continue to extract from the churches this money. I ask your support for the amendment. Do not be alarmed that there is some small reduction in revenue to cities and counties as a result of this amendment. Do not be alarmed about that because the state, itself, through laws that it has passed this very session, has enhanced dollars to the cities and counties. A small example of a law we passed a few years ago...

SENATOR HANNIBAL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...the cities talk about how they may have to enforce bingo law or nonlicensing law in local courts, there was a time when the cities paid for local courts but cities don't pay for those anymore because the state took over the funding responsibility, a direct relief to the cities. Now this is a small amount of money that will remain in the pockets of our churches and our charities who will spend it on the neediest. It is a well-deserved small piece of tax relief for our charities, our churches, and the neediest. I ask your support for the amendment.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Johnson and Hall were closing on the Hall amendment to 295. The question is, shall the Hall amendment pass? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Senator Johnson has asked that the house shall come under call. The question is, shall the house come under call? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 16 ayes, 0 nays to go under call, Mr. President.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: The house is under call. Please return to your seats and record your presence. All unauthorized personnel, please leave the floor. Those outside the Chamber, please report to the Chamber and record your presence. Please look up to see if your presence is recorded. Senator Barrett, please, Senator Chambers, please report to the Chamber. Senator